

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

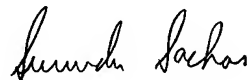
The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to make a minor clarification in the specification and in claim 1, which are believed to be self-evident from the original disclosure.

Further, by the present Preliminary Amendment a substitute Figure 12 is provided that now properly labels elements "41a" and "41b", rather than previously merely reciting two reference numerals "41b".

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

GJM:SNS\la

I:\ATTY\SNS\25s\257290\257290US-PR.DOC

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423